

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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**DECEMBER 21, 2005**

## **EX CHIEF OF POLICE OF EAST ST. LOUIS CONVICTED**

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today on December 21, 2005, **RONALD MATTHEWS**, former Chief of the East St. Louis (Illinois) Police Department, was found guilty by a jury after a seven-day jury trial on all counts of an Indictment that he had been charged with. **MATTHEWS** was indicted January 20, 2005. Count 1 of the Indictment charged a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 (Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice); Count 2 charged a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(c)(1) (Obstruction of Justice); and Count 6 charged a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1623, Perjury Before the Grand Jury. Sentencing is set for March 20, 2006.

Janerra Carson-Slaughter, former secretary to **MATTHEWS**, and Ayoub S. Qattoum, a former Auxiliary Police Officer with the East St. Louis Police Department, were charged together in the six-count indictment. Carson-Slaughter and Qattoum pled guilty on March 14, 2005. Qattoum was sentenced on August 22, 2005, and committed to the Bureau of Prisons for a total term of 21 months. Carson-Slaughter's sentencing is scheduled for January 9, 2006.

The successful prosecution was obtained in an investigation by the Metro East Public Corruption Task Force. Law enforcement agencies participating in the investigation include the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Postal Inspection Service; the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation; the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and the Illinois State Police. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Hal Goldsmith.